

Amendments to the Specification

114.

FIGURE 5 shows a logical flow for preparing tagged notifications according to one embodiment of the invention. Starting at a block 510, a synchronization state between the devices is determined. According to one particular embodiment, a synchronization key is used to determine the current synchronization state between the device and the server. The synchronization key is a key as described in co-pending patent application, filed on the same day as this application, Serial No. 09/892,679 [[_____]], originally entitled "Method and System for Using a Sync Key," by Thomas et al, which is incorporated herein by reference. Briefly described, the sync key is an integer that starts at zero and is incremented with each successful synchronization with the synchronization partner. When the devices have the same sync key value the devices agree on the last synchronization checkpoint. To synchronize to another checkpoint, a device sends the sync key last sent to it by the synchronization partner. For example, if each device is at synchronization level four, and a device desires to synchronize to level five, the device sends the sync key having a value of four to the synchronization partner. According to one embodiment of the invention, the desired synchronization value is the last received synchronization key value received by the synchronization partner. When a synchronization is not being performed, the desired synchronization value will have the same value as the last successful synchronization. Moving to a block 520, the notification that will be sent to the receiving partner is tagged with the current synchronization value. For example, if the last synchronization value received from the device was five and a successful response was sent to the device with that value, then the notification is tagged with a value of five. The logical flow then ends.